

Another observation of the Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) in Western Australia.—On November 18, 1977 while in Broome, south-west Kimberley, we observed from a distance of 15 metres an unfamiliar black-and-white bird on the roof of a low building. The bird ran down the roof to the gutter which was half full of water. Here it momentarily stopped and wagged its long tail with a jerky up-and-down motion. It then walked briskly and ran along the edge of the roof with a backward-and-forward motion of the head and a constant up-and-down movement of the tail. From the roof it flew down to a recently watered lawn to within 10-12 metres of us and continued to jerk the tail and head. It was last seen when it flew across the garden on to a broad branch of a large *Albizia*. Our attention was first attracted to the bird, because it is so unusual to see Australian passerines feeding on roofs.

Although we observed the bird for 30-60 seconds it was difficult to get a full description of its colour pattern. It was similar in size to a Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) and had a long tail and long legs; the face, throat and upper wing were white; the head, back and tail were uniform greyish black, and the breast was blackish.

Apart from the white face, our description also fits *Motacilla aguimp* of Africa; however this species is sedentary, and therefore unlikely to reach Australia. On the other hand the eastern races of *M. alba* are migratory, spending the northern winter in northern India, Burma, southern China, south-east Asia, Borneo and the Philippines.

This is the second Pied Wagtail sighting in Australia. Storr (1975, *W. Aust. Nat.*, 13: 64-65) reported a bird in the Katanning district (south-west of Western Australia). It is probable that both Western Australian sightings were of an Asian subspecies of *M. alba*.

—R. E. JOHNSTONE and L. A. SMITH, W.A. Museum.

The Red-winged Parrot (*Aprosmictus erythropterus*) in the North-West Division of Western Australia.—On June 9, 1975, while travelling north on the Great Northern Highway, I saw a party of six Red-winged Parrots at 35 km south of Anna Plains turnoff. As this locality is 2 km south of the Kimberley boundary (lat. 19°30'S), the observation constitutes the first Western Australian record of this parrot outside of the Kimberleys.

The question arose were these birds an isolated occurrence or were they continuous with the main Kimberley population north of La Grange? During my return trip through this country on September 20-21 I kept a sharp lookout for Red-winged Parrots and noted single birds at 3 and 10 km NE of La Grange turnoff, 4 km N of Frazier Downs turnoff, 9 km N of Nita Downs turnoff, and 19 km S of Anna Plains turnoff. Most of these birds were feeding on the green seeds of a broad-leaved acacia.

Dr G. M. Storr has provided me with additional records (all but one unpublished) from the far south-west of the Kimberley Division. C. F. H. Jenkins (*Emu*, 47, 1947: 39) observed a pair at La Grange in April 1944. Dr D. L. Serventy saw two birds at a mill 8 km NE of Anna Plains on September 30, 1958. Mrs. H. B. Gill noted two at ca 40 km NE of La Grange turnoff on July 11, 1973. During April 9-11, 1974 Messrs. L. A. Smith and R. E. Johnstone observed several birds at Frazier Downs in pindan scrub, especially around mills; on May 31, 1975 they saw six birds in pindan at 8 km S of Frazier Downs HS. On their recent trip to the Kimberleys Mr and Mrs R. E. Johnstone made the following observations: one at 7 km S of Frazier Downs turnoff on September 21, 1975; one at Frazier Downs HS on September 21 and 29; two near Frazier Downs HS on September 21; two pairs feeding in low acacias at 8 km E of Frazier Downs HS on September 28; five around Nita Downs HS on October 2, feeding on small black seeds in the open pods of broad-leaf acacias up to 3 m high; and one in low stunted acacia at 3 km S of Anna Plains turnoff, October 2, 1975.

It seems that south of Dampier Land to the extreme north of the North-west Division Red-winged Parrots are moderately plentiful near the coast in a narrow belt of pindan scrub.

—W. H. BUTLER, Wanneroo.